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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY EAST GERMANY/WEST GERMANY

TDCSUP 315/03589-65

EOF

3 - 12 NOVEMBER 1965

DISTR 20 NOVEMBER 1965

SUBJECT

DISPUTES IN PRISONER-EXCHANGE NEGOTIATIONS
ARISING FROM WEST GERMAN DELAYS IN
RELEASING PRISONERS

ACQ. GERMANY, BERLIN (16 NOVEMBER 1965)

REF TDCSDB-315/03589-65

SOURCE INTERCEPTED COMMUNICATIONS.

FIELD REPORT NO. 1701-205

ND
RAISAL

1. PRISONER-EXCHANGE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE HIT ANOTHER SNAG AS A RESULT OF WEST GERMAN DELAYING TACTICS IN RELEASING THREE PRISONERS IN WEST GERMAN JAILS ON WHOSE RETURN THE EAST GERMANS HAVE PLACED A HIGH PRIORITY. /FIELD COMMENT/ THE IDENTITIES OF THE THREE PRISONERS HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED. IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRISONER EXCHANGE NEGOTIATORS, THEY HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO AS THE "TRIUMVIRATE". SEE TDCSDB-315/03589-65; ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, THEIR RELEASE HAD BEEN SET FOR 10 NOVEMBER 1965.

2. ON 9 NOVEMBER, AN OFFICIAL OF THE ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGING THE RELEASE OF THE

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCESMETHODSEXEMPTION 3B2E
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

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TRIUMVIRATE INFORMED JUERGEN STANGE, THE PRINCIPAL WEST GERMAN NEGOTIATOR, THAT THE RELEASE COULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE 17TH. STANGE THEN ATTEMPTED TO HAVE THE PRISONER EXCHANGE COORDINATORS FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, PRELATES WILHELM WISSING AND JOHANNES ZINKE, INTERVENE IN ORDER THAT THE ORIGINAL DATE COULD BE MET. IF NOT, STANGE SAID, "A 'CATASTROPHE' WOULD SET IN" BECAUSE HIS EASTERN NEGOTIATING PARTNER, WOLFGANG VOGEL HAD MANAGED TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF 50 SPECIAL CASES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE FREEDOM OF THE TRIUMVIRATE.

3. WISSING ASSURED STANGE THAT THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT CHANGED ITS MIND ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THE ISSUE AND THAT THE DELAY WAS DUE TO THE CUMBERSOME BUREAUCRATIC AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS REQUIRED BEFORE PAROLE CAN BE ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT. FURTHERMORE, HE SAID THE HANDLING OF BAIER CASE SHOULD CONVINCE THE EAST THAT ITS FEARS ARE GROUNLESS. FIELD COMMENT: ADOLF BAIER, AN SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE FUNCTIONARY, WAS RELEASED BY THE WEST ON 1 JUNE 1965, ALSO AFTER PROLONGED NEGOTIATIONS.

STANGE'S REJOINDER WAS THAT THE BUREAUCRATIC MACHINERY SHOULD HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION EARLIER IF IT WAS KNOWN THAT THE PROCESS WOULD TAKE SO LONG.

4. IN ANOTHER CONVERSATION BETWEEN STANGE AND AN

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OFFICIAL OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY SERVICE (BUNDESANT FÜR
VERFASSUNGSSCHUTZ - BFV), THE LATTER IMPLIED THAT THE
MACHINERY HAD DELIBERATELY BEEN SET IN MOTION LATE IN THE
HOPE THAT THE "SIX PEOPLE FROM PULLACH" MIGHT BE RETURNED
PRIOR TO THE WEST GERMAN RELEASES. ON 12 NOVEMBER, THE
ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT THIS
WAS, INDEED, HIS INTENTION, WHEN HE ASKED STANGE THAT THERE
SHOULD BE A SIMULTANEOUS EXCHANGE OF THE THREE AGAINST THE
SIX OR, IF THIS WERE NOT POSSIBLE, THEN THE RELEASE OF
AT LEAST FOUR OF THE PULLACH PEOPLE. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT:
THE PEOPLE FROM PULLACH PROBABLY REFERS TO INDIVIDUALS
ARRESTED FOR COOPERATION WITH THE WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE,) THE BND.)

5. IN ANOTHER DISCUSSION WITH WISSING ON 12 NOVEMBER,
STANGE STATED THAT THE RELEASE OF TWO OF THE PULLACH PEOPLE
HAD BEEN GUARANTEED FOR 1 DECEMBER AND THAT THE REMAINING
FOUR WOULD DEFINITELY COME OUT ON 10 DECEMBER. ON THE
SAME DAY, WISSING CALLED BACK AND TOLD STANGE THAT HE
HAD OBTAINED POSITIVE ASSURANCE THAT THE TRIUMVIRATE WOULD
BE RELEASED ON 19 NOVEMBER, AFTER HE (WISSING) HAD GIVEN HIS
PERSONAL GUARANTEE TO THE JUSTICE MINISTRY THAT THE
SIX WOULD BE RELEASED.

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